

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Meets Every 2nd & 4th Friday at St. James Clubroom, 2424 N. Mango, Chicago, Ill.

Issue No. 293

Price 25c

October, 1971

POLPEX 1972 MARCH 4th & 5th AT ST. JAMES

The event has been announced! POLPEX 1972 is to be held March 4-5, 1972 at St. James Auditorium.

But what does this mean to the Polonus members who reside in the Chicago metropolitan area?

It probably means that they might or might not exhibit. It probably means that they might or might not attend the show. It means that they might or might not help in setting up the exhibits. It means that they might or might not attend the Beeba. In short, it means that they might or might not do anything, and in all likelihood leave the matter of putting another successful show together to "other members." Really?!!

Last year's Polpex was a labor of love. It only came to successful fruition as a result of a dedicated few who believed in Polonus and Polish Philately. In fact, the Beeba came about only because Non-Polonus members worked toward making it a success last year.

What about the forthcoming year and POLPEX 1972? Its success is dependent on you. The burden of putting this show together should not rest on the shoulders of only a few each year. Polonus and Polpex needs you. The committees are forming and will be announced in the next **Bulletin**.

But — the important "but" is — will Polonus have the necessary pec-

ple who will help put together another successful Polpex?

(Continued on next page)

POLONUS AWARDED MEDAL

In a recent edition of the publication *FILATELISTA* we note that, on the occasion of the 77th anniversary of the origin of the Polish Philatelic Press, ceremonies were held May 9, 1971 at Krakow, Poland. Medals were presented for services rendered in this field.



The Polonus Philatelic Society was awarded the above illustrated medal for the promotion of Pol'sh Philately abroad through publication of their monthly **Bulletin**. We eagerly await the receipt of this medal.

—H.

Don't let George do it. The more of you who contribute your time and help, the easier it is to have a good Polpex show.

The biggest problem, as in previous years, is the Beeba. There are some of those among our members who can handle this facet of the show in a most splendid fashion. The question now is — will they? It may or may not mean the question "will there be a Beeba at POLPEX 1972?"

Polonus and Polpex needs you. Do it now. Either let me know by phone, 434-3322, Ext. 444 during the day, or drop me a line at home: 5713 W. Warwick, Chicago, Ill. 60634.

—Thomas J. Gobby,
Executive Chairman

With this issue of the **Bulletin** we are mailing you a copy of the entry application for the coming Polpex. The application is being sent you earlier than usual in order to give you more time to plan and prepare your exhibit.

POLAND MAIL SALE

Members Joseph Bieniecki and son Henry are conducting a Mail Sale for Polonus Philatelic Society Members Only on November 20, 1971. Offered are pre-war, locals, P.O.W., etc. For the Mail Sale listings write to Henry J. Bieniecki, Box 100, Granite City, Illinois 62040.

AUSTIN PHILATELIC CLUB 40th ANNIVERSARY

Chicagoland members are invited to attend the Austin Philatelic Club 40th Anniversary Dinner festivities on Saturday, November 13th, 1971 at Hedy's Restaurant and Lounge, 2637 N. Central Ave., Chicago, Ill. A full course family style dinner with all the trimmings for only \$4.00. Tickets available from J. P. Rux, 6136 West Addison Street, Chicago, Ill. 60634.

AMPOLPEX AT BUFFALO

The Polish Philatelic Society of Buffalo will hold its 10th annual exhibition, known as AMPOLPEX, on November 6 & 7, 1971 at Adam Mickiewicz Auditorium, 612 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N.Y. Hours on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The theme of the show is "Polish Art on Stamps." Some 150 frames, limited to Polish philatelic material, will be on display. Other exhibits will include posters, books and post cards. There will be free stamps for children and a dealers bourse.

An auction will be held on Sunday at 4 p.m. Banquet and Award Presentation will take place Sunday at 7:30 p.m. A branch of the United States Postal Service will be on hand with a special cancellation. Covers and souvenir sheets will be available for the event. Details may be obtained from Ampolpex, 612 Fillmore Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 14212.

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

If you have moved, please notify us of your change of address. Mail notice to Chester Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge, Ill. 60656. This will insure your receiving our **Bulletin** promptly.

C.P.S. SHOW, NOV. 5, 6, 7

The Chicago Philatelic Society 85th Annual Stamp Show takes place November 5, 6 and 7, 1971 at Sheraton-Chicago Hotel, 505 N. Michigan Ave. Adults \$1.00. Children under 16 years — free.

In this issue of the **Bulletin** we continue with another segment of the lengthy "Handbook of Upper Silesia" by Dr. Rayal de Ragan, and edited by D. Meinung.

GREEN POST ISSUE

During all important historical events there are some speculative opportunities in philately that some individuals will take advantage of. This occurred in Upper Silesia at the time of the Inter Allied Commission.

During the period from February 1920 until June 1922 Upper Silesia was an ephemeral state in the terms of international law and was issuing their own postage stamps. This situation, as always, opened a wide field for the speculator.

Consider, for instance, the First Definitive Issue and its overprints, which were issued even though the Second Definitive Issue had been lying ready for weeks at the Imprimerie Nationale in Paris.

Another example of philatelic speculation is seen in the issue of an overprinted stamp in commemoration of the voting day in quantities that could not cover the demand for even one day in this area.

But the summit of the speculators' fancy was reached in the preparation of twenty values of so-called "Official Stamps" with 26 various combinations of overprint known as the Green Post Issue.

These matters certainly show the fantasy of the German's superb world organization of the period. The German trade journals try to shift the guilt onto the Inter Allied Commission but the fact remains that the Commission was only acting on orders from the mass of officials, of whom 85% were of German origin.

It is necessary to understand the circumstances under which this philatelic speculation took place to realize that the so-called Green Post Issue was an edition of stamps which never had any official validity or authorization of any kind. In spite of this, the issue has been the object of many collectors' search and has caused many



people a great deal of financial loss.

On May 3, 1921, or to be more accurate, during the night of the second, the Third Silesian Insurrection began. This was in response to the Inter Allied Commissions recommendation, especially by some of its British and Italian members (Col. Parsival and General de Marinis), to split up the area on a basis inconsistent with the plebiscite results and the provisions of the peace treaty.

Poland could not take part in the argument without accusation of sabotaging the Council of Ambassadors' orders and therefore all contacts with the Silesian territory had to be done under cover.

Between May 15 and 17, 1921 a new channel of communication was reportedly opened between Poland and Upper Silesia at Sosnowiec. According to paragraph 9 and 10 of the Insurgents Field Post Regulations it was decided to open this system to the public.

Postage was set at 10 Marks and was franked by affixing the upper half of the stamp to the letter. The lower half with the word "postage" was torn off.

All correspondence was to be delivered to two collecting points in Sosnowiec and Szopienice and from there delivered to the addressee.

Three routes were reportedly established over the border between Upper Silesia and Poland through territory heavily guarded by German detachments.

1. Sosnowiec — Huta Laura (Laura-hutte) over the bridge on Przemsza to Milowka in Poland — total 5 Km.
2. Sosnowiec — Szopienice (Schopinitz) over the bridge on Przemsza at Szopienice — total 3 Km.
3. From the Myszkow railroad station through the land estate Koziegłowy — total 5 km.

All of these routes were closed on the liquidation of the insurrection. Only a handful of letters were supposedly taken across by this post.

Design

Two stamps were prepared, each with a face value of 10 Marks. These were designed by an unknown officer of the insurgents army and differ in size only.

Each stamp consists of two parts separated by a white space. The upper portion contains the inscription "Gorny Slask — 1921 Poczta Polowa Powstancza" (Upper Silesia — 1921 Insurgents Field Post) around a piast eagle. The lower portion has the inscription "10 Mk. + Oplata + 10 Mk." (10 Mk. + Postage + 10 Mk.)

The smaller stamp measures 36 mm by 23 mm overall (36 x 14,3 upper and 36 x 5,8 lower) and the larger stamp is 29,3 by 40.6 mm (29,3 x 29 upper and 29,3 x 8,5 lower).

Two sizes were prepared so that the larger could serve for letters from Upper Silesia to Poland and the smaller from Poland to Upper Silesia. The upper portion of the stamp was used as a control ticket for accepting the letter and the lower portion as a means of payment. Correspondence from the insurgents to their families and returns were free and in these cases the upper half only was affixed to the cover and the lower was retained for bookkeeping purposes.

Printing

These stamps were printed from zinc plates of 25 stamps each which

created a sheet with conspicuously large borders. There was only one printing, consisting of 452 sheets (11,300 stamps) of which half were perforated and half were left imperforate.

During the final stages of printing the plates became seriously undulated on the left side, smudging that side of the sheet. Because of this the left portion of 82 sheets (410 stamps) had to be destroyed.

After this printing was completed the plates were destroyed according to the organizers.

They were very carelessly executed and of inferior material, especially the last ones printed which contained smudges and indistinct designs.

Errors

Due to the damaged plates there occurred a great many misprints and errors such as spots, points and dots on the large size stamps.

There are three regular errors worth mentioning.

Type A — A comma shaped spot in the left frame of the outside ornament on about one fifth of the ornament surface at field 5. The stamp has a dot on the right side near the eagle's wing.

Type B — The base of the numeral 2 in 1921 is joined to the circle at field 23.

Type C — The second 1 in 1921 is thin and has a dot on the left side at field 17.

Color

All stamps were issued in two shades, green and dark grey green.

Types

Small size stamps

Ia	dark grey green	imperforate
Ib	light grey green	imperforate
II	green	imperforate
IIIa	dark grey green	perf. 11½
IIIb	light grey green	perf. 11½
IV	green	perf. 11½

Large size stamps

Va	dark grey green	imperforate
Vb	light grey green	imperforate
VI	green	imperforate
VIIa	dark grey green	perf. 11½
VIIb	light grey green	perf. 11½
VIII	green	perf. 11½

All of these large size stamps occur in the three types A, B and C listed above under errors.

Type VI can often be found with a very weak print and types VIIa, VII and VIII sometimes have a double perforation at the top.

Due to wear on the plates the smudging mentioned earlier occurred. This can be noticed especially on the inscription *Pocztą Polska* and the value and is most common on types I, II, III, IV and VII.

Circulation

Even though these stamps were purely speculative items we find them offered due to the myth of their validity. Especially since the speculators did all they could to make them appear authorized and took great pains to perpetuate this myth. This can be seen by their quotations of paragraphs of the Insurgents Field Post Regulations, etc. which never existed, route tracings, etc.

These routes actually did exist but for the transport of people who had to flee from the German Security Police and for sending volunteers and equipment from Poland.

It is possible that some letters came by this route also but simply as a favor or as a service paid for in cash. After reaching Sosnowiec they would have to have Polish stamps affixed anyway.

The speculators say that these stamps were in circulation until May 1921 and that they were used to make up back pay of the insurgents.

As proof of their authenticity they put forth some logical arguments, such as, that too much care was taken

in their preparation for a speculative issue. Also pointing to the preparation of seals, the writing of instructions (known officially by none), training of personnel (also unknown), the existence of covers (speculative objects), low price of stamps later sold by the Insurgents Association, printing of stamps and the small number of copies printed.

They admit themselves that there was no official order to issue these stamps but argue that there was also no order forbidding them. This evidence is not at all conclusive if we consider that at a time when the future of Upper Silesia hung in the balance the Insurgent Authorities had more important matters to attend to than the establishment of a post, which was not indispensable since the civilian post was efficiently run and the Insurgents had their own field post.

Summary

In February 1922, in the second edition of the Polish philatelic journal "*Nowy Filatelista*" (The New Philatelist), and later in Warsaw, there appeared an article by Tadeusz Gryzewski giving data which only the authors of the Green Post issue could want to publish. This article misled many philatelists.

In reply to the article came a letter from the Chief of Staff of the Insurgents Army, Major Ludyga Laszkowski. This letter summarizes the whole affair, therefore I quote it in its entirety in translation.

To the Publishing Committee of *Nowy Filatelista* at Warsaw:

Only today did I learn of the second edition of your journal of November 15, 1922.

With great interest and very great surprise I read the article about the "Green Post."

I do not want to admire more, the soaring fancy and courage to write

about a post **which not only never existed but was never even planned.**

Since you have labeled the article a "dispute item" I feel compelled for the good of serious philately as **one of the chief organizers of the uprising in Upper Silesia** to give you some facts about the "Green Post" with the request of its publication in a future issue of your journal.

1. No underground Silesian organization ever planned or organized a post and I expressly state that no such post ever existed.
2. **The Board of the Insurgents Association never had any stamp of the "Green Post" in stock and it is untrue that any back pay to the soldiers of the Insurgent Army was paid in postage stamps.**

If you wish I would be willing to furnish you further information.

Yours, etc.,

Major Ludyga Laskowski
Former deputy Commander
of the 1st Division of the
Insurgent Army.
Former member of the Board
of Insurgents Ass'n.
Former Vice Commander of
Insurgents Army.

Note: All bold lines were underlined by the author of the letter.

I think this letter explains the affair sufficiently well.

It may be added that in the Insurgents Association balance sheet for the year 1922 appears the item:

From the sale of the stamps of the Green Post Mk. 212,020,000.00
(approximately \$2,000.00 U.S.A.)

Considering that altogether 22,600 stamps of a 10 Mk. face value were issued, if the entire stock were sold in 1922 this would equal about 1000 Mk. each, or 100 times their face value. If we add to this the fact that the philatelic market of that period was flooded with offers of these stamps we must come to the conclu-

sion that the whole affair was strictly speculative.

OCTOBER 8th MEETING

It was Polonus's pleasure to have Louis Reich as its featured guest speaker at the October 8th program meeting. With physical examples from his own collection he showed how one with perseverance and ingenuity could put together a most unusual collection with ordinary material.

Mr. Reich calls this field of collecting "Fun" or "Funny" Collecting. Illustrating his points he showed how one could build up very interesting collections centering on: unusual town names, colored cancels, design cancels, newspaper cancels, military cancels, mixed franking, bullseyes (socked on the nose), numeral cancellations, railroad, packetboat, diplomatic pouch mail, misplaced and extra perfs, errors, and ad infinitum.

The possibilities are endless! For those of you who are stagnating in your collection efforts, a trip into a sideline may be in order. Our thanks to Mr. Reich for opening the door of opportunity (inexpensive as it is) to those who privileged to be in attendance at this meeting. —T.G.

WEICHSELFLOTILLE INFORMATION PLEASE!

I am seeking details of the Vistula and Bug River Gunboat operations of the German and Austrian freshwater raxies during the First World War. Ccl. Berek and M. Koseve wrote about them in the 1963 issue of "Filatelista". J. Nekvasil also mentions these services in his Danube Flotilla article in the May 1970 issue of the Postal History Journal.

Anyone having such covers, post cards or information, is kindly asked to communicate with Dr. M. A. Kamienski, 2967 Kingston Rd., Scarborough, Ont. Canada. A future article will be written on this fascinating but relatively unknown topic.

NEW ISSUES

A set of eight stamps were issued on October 15, 1971 as a continuation of the series "Treasures of Polish Culture" marking the 1000th Anniversary of the Polish State. Shown are the following stained-glass designs:

20 gr.—"Angel" — stained-glass window for the Chapel of the Grauers in Opawa, by Jozef Mehoffer in 1901. At present in the National Museum in Warsaw. Quantity issued 6 million.

40 gr.—"Water Lilies" — Detail from the series "The Elements" by Stanislaw Wyspianski. At present in the church of the Franciscan Order in Cracow. Quantity issued 6 million.

60 gr.—"Irises" — Detail from the series "The Elements" by Stanislaw Wyspianski. At present in the church of the Franciscan Order in Cracow. Quantity issued 6 million.

1.35 zl.—"Apollo" — by Stanislaw Wyspianski, 1904. At present in the National Museum in Cracow. Quantity issued 6 million.

1.55 zl.—"The Two Magi", 1430-1440 from the church of the Dominican Order in Cracow. At present in the National Museum in Cracow. Quantity issued 4 million.

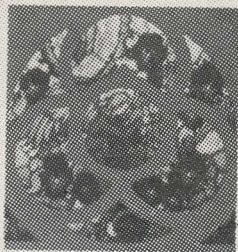
3.45 zl.—"Flight to Egypt" — 2nd half of the 14th century from the Parish Church in Chelmno. At present in the Museum of Torun. Quantity issued 2.5 million.

5.50 zl.—"St. Jacob the Elder" — 2nd half of the 14th century from the Parish Church in Chelmno. At present in the Museum of Torun. Quantity issued one million.

8.50 zl.—"Madonna" — 15th century, Cracow. At present in the National Museum in Cracow. Quantity issued one million.

Rotogravure printed at PWPW Warsaw on chalky paper in sheets of 50 stamps. Designed by Krystyna Takowska. Photographic material prepared by Wanda Gottwald.

—RUCH



JOZEF MEHOFFER

POLSKA 20 GR



POLSKA 40 GR



POLSKA 1.55 ZL

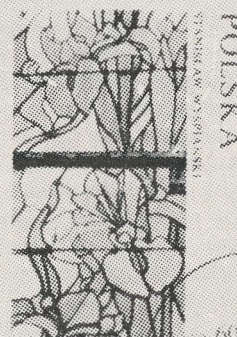


POLSKA 3.45 ZL



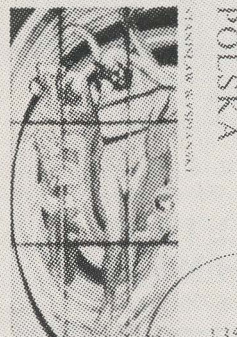
POLSKA

60 GR



POLSKA

1.35 ZL



POLSKA

5.50 ZL



POLSKA

8.50 ZL

Cut courtesy of LINN'S STAMP NEWS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, November 12, 1971 —

All members are asked to bring along an album from their collection and tell us a few words about it. A short auction will also be held. Material for the auction will consist of lots remaining from the Bert Powell collection — mostly pre World War II material. Meeting begins at 8:00 p.m. at St. James Clubroom.

Friday, November 26, 1971 —

Business Meeting.

SOMEONE FORGOT ZIP CODE

WARSAW—A post office in Lodz in central Poland sent about 1,500 letters and postcards, including registered mail, to a waste paper depot, a Warsaw newspaper has reported. A worker at the depot discovered the mistake when he noticed an unopened letter, addressed to the place where his daughter worked, among waste paper he was taking to a paper mill. The newspaper indignantly described the affair as "a scandal probably unprecedented in the history of the history of the Polish Post Office".

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The Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. Views expressed by authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

POLAND LOTS ON AUCTION

Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries of N. Y. will hold an auction November 22 & 23, 1971. Among the material to be auctioned off will be an enormous specialized collection of Poland, contained in eighty volumes. It is a highly significant collection, touching on every aspect of Polish postal history with early stampless covers, a showing of stamps and covers of the popular "Number One" and with a large showing of World War I and II issues, numerous covers and cancellations, etc.

Catalogs of this unusually interesting auction, which are full of illustrations can be had from the Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. of 120 East 56th St., New York 10022 at a 50¢ mailing charge.

KRAKOW ISSUE BOOKLET

We are still appealing to the membership to subscribe to the proposed 100 page booklet on Poland's Krakow Overprints by Dr. M. Kamienski. The pre-publication price is \$10.00 (regular price will be \$15.00). For those who collect Krakow issues it's a must for your philatelic library. If you intend to buy the booklet when it is published, please send a card or letter telling us so. Mail it to Al Rybarski, 2435 First Ave., River Grove, Ill. 60171.